

REMARKS

Applicant has amended the claims to eliminate multiple dependencies.

Favorable consideration of the present application, as amended herein, is courteously requested.

Applicant has calculated no additional fee due in connection with this paper. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 04-1131. A duplicate copy of the first page of this transmittal is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

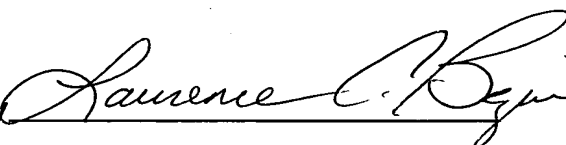
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Date

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**MARKED UP CLAIMS**

3. (amended) A mortar grouting type joint for reinforcing bars according to claim 1 [or 2], wherein each of the pair of thin-walled members constituting the supporting protrusion (5) has an angle ridge line (7) sloping on both sides with the portion supporting the reinforcing bar (12) constituting the apex.

4. (amended) A mortar grouting type joint for reinforcing bars according to claim 1 [to 3], wherein the bolt hole (8) is situated between the supporting protrusion (5) and the opening cover (2).

5. (amended) A mortar grouting type joint for reinforcing bars according to claim 1 [to 4], wherein the bolt hole (8) is situated in the portion of the cylindrical body side wall facing to the supporting protrusion (5).

6. (amended) A mortar grouting type joint for reinforcing bars according to claim 1 [to 5], wherein:

the distance between the reinforcing bar supporting portions (6) of the pair of thin-walled members is smaller than the diameter of the reinforcing bar (12); and

the distance between the reinforcing bar supporting portion (6) and the cylindrical body central axis is substantially equal to the radius of the circular hole (3) of the opening cover (2).

7. (amended) A mortar grouting type joint for reinforcing bars according to claim 1 [to 6], wherein the bolt hole (8) is provided in the vicinity of the point at which the straight line passing through the midpoint between the reinforcing bar supporting portions (6) of the pair of thin-walled members and the central axis of the hollow cylindrical body intersects the inner wall of the hollow cylindrical body.

8. (amended) A mortar grouting type joint for reinforcing bars according to claim 1 [to 7], wherein the line segment connecting the contact points of each of the pair of thin-walled members and the cylindrical body inner wall is arranged perpendicularly to the thin-walled members, the pair of thin-walled members extending parallel to each other.

9. (amended) A mortar grouting type joint for reinforcing bars according to claim 1 [to 7], wherein the line segment connecting the contact points of the pair of thin-walled members and the cylindrical body inner wall is arranged perpendicularly to the thin-walled members, the distance between the pair of thin-walled members increasing continuously from the reinforcing bar supporting portions (6) toward the opening cover (2) side of the hollow cylindrical body.

10. (amended) A mortar grouting type joint for reinforcing bars according

to claim 1 [to 7], wherein the angle made by the line segment connecting contact points of the pair of thin-walled members and the inner wall of the hollow cylindrical body and by the thin-walled members constitute an acute angle, the pair of thin-walled members being parallel to each other.

11. (amended) A mortar grouting type joint for reinforcing bars according to claim 1 [to 7], wherein the angle made by the line segment connecting the contact points of the pair of thin-walled members and the inner wall of the hollow cylindrical body and by the thin-walled members constitute an acute angle, the distance between the pair of thin-walled members increasing continuously from the reinforcing bar supporting portions (6) toward the both ends of the hollow cylindrical body.

12. (amended) A mortar grouting type joint for reinforcing bars according to claim 1 [to 11], wherein the diameter of the circular hole (3) of the opening cover (2) is the same as the diameter of the reinforcing bar (12) inserted into the joint, or an appropriate clearance is provided between the circular hole (3) of the opening cover (2) and the reinforcing bar (12) inserted into the joint.

13. (amended) A mortar grouting type joint for reinforcing bars according to claim 1 [to 12], wherein a seal member mounting portion is integrally attached to the outer side of the opening cover (2).

14. (amended) A mortar grouting type joint for reinforcing bars according to claim 1 [to 13], wherein each of the facing surfaces of the pair of thin-walled members has a dip angle which facilitates the guiding of the reinforcing bar (12).